

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-23. Cancelled

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus having a vacuum source for removing ~~unwanted~~ moisture beneath or from at least one surface of a structure, the structure including a structural surface, the apparatus comprising:

at least one vacuum mat having an integral construction and being in removable contact with the at least one surface via a plurality of mat supports and having at least one vacuum port and at least one channel residing between the plurality of mat supports in fluid communication with the at least one surface and the at least one vacuum port; and

a hose in fluid communication with the vacuum source and the at least one vacuum port,

wherein water migration occurs in the direction from the at least one surface, through the at least one channel, to the at least one vacuum port, through the hose, and towards the vacuum source

~~an upper surface and a lower surface and a first nonporous section, the first section including an array of protrusions engagable directly with the structural surface for supporting the mat on the structural surface and permitting fluid flow between the lower surface of the mat and the structural surface.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~protrusions are of uniform depth~~ at least one channel is formed by a plurality of mat supports in contact with the at least one surface.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the ~~plurality of mat supports structural surface is substantially planar and the protrusions provide substantially uniform spacing between the lower surface of map and the structural surface~~ are spaced to provide sufficient space between the surface and the at least one mat to

convey vacuum through the plurality of channels to foster water transfer from or beneath the at least one surface.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the perimeter of the at least one mat is self sealing on the structural at least one surface upon application of sufficient suction from the vacuum source.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the at least one vacuum mat includes a plurality of vacuum mats in direct fluid communication with the hose and the at least one vacuum port of each vacuum mat of the plurality of vacuum mats further including a second section having a vacuum port providing fluid communication through the mat.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the plurality of vacuum mats are indirectly in fluid communication with the hose and the at least one vacuum port of each vacuum mat of the plurality of vacuum mats via fluid communication through the at least one vacuum port of other at least one vacuum mats in direct fluid communication with the hose the second section adjoins the first section.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the plurality of vacuum mats are in sealable contact with the at least one surface upon application of suction from the vacuum source second section surrounds the first section.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28 ~~24~~, further including an inter-plane vacuum chamber in fluid communication with the hose that is self sealable against the at least one surface of a wall-floor junction or a wall-wall junction upon application of suction from the vacuum source a vacuum source attachable to the vacuum port.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28 ~~31~~, wherein the vacuum hose is in fluid communication with a plurality of inter-plane vacuum chambers via a vacuum manifold in fluid communication with the plurality of inter-plane vacuum chambers

~~second section includes a plurality of vacuum ports each port providing fluid communication through the mat.~~

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus having a vacuum source for removing unwanted moisture from at least one surface of a structure, ~~the structure including a structural surface,~~ the apparatus comprising:

a vacuum mat having an integrally connected plurality of mat supports defining a plurality of channels, and at least one vacuum port in fluid communication with the plurality of channels and the at least one vacuum port, the mat removeably engagable with the at least one surface via the plurality of mat supports and the plurality of channels; and

a hose in fluid communication with the vacuum source and the at least one vacuum port,

wherein water migration occurs in the direction from the at least one surface, through the plurality of channels, to the at least one vacuum port, through the hose, and towards the vacuum source having an upper surface and a lower surface and a first nonporous section, the first section including an array of protrusions directly engagable with the structural surface supporting the mat on the structural surface and permitting fluid flow between the lower surface and the structural surface;

~~the mat further including a second section adjoining the first section and having a vacuum port, the port providing fluid communication through the mat.~~

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the at least one vacuum port includes at least one reservoir integrally connected to and in fluid communication with the at least one vacuum port and the plurality of channels ~~mat is a unitary construction.~~

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus having a vacuum source for removing unwanted moisture from or beneath the surface of a structure, ~~the structure including first and second substantially orthogonal structural surfaces,~~ the apparatus comprising:

at least one vacuum mat having an integrally connected plurality of mat supports

defining a plurality of channels, and at least one vacuum port in fluid communication with the plurality of channels and the at least one vacuum port, the at least one vacuum mat removeably engagagable with the at least one surface via the plurality of mat supports and the plurality of channels; and

a hose in fluid communication with the vacuum source and the at least one vacuum port,

wherein water migration occurs in the direction from the at least one surface, through the plurality of channels, to the at least one vacuum port, through the hose, and towards the vacuum source

~~a housing including a sealing surface sealably engagable with the first and second structural surfaces.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the ~~housing includes a vacuum port~~ hose achieves fluid communication via a vacuum tube slidably engageable with the at least one vacuum port and pierceably engageable with the hose.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35 ~~36~~, wherein the vacuum tube is pierceably engageable with the hose via a puncturing insert ~~further including a vacuum source connectable to the vacuum port.~~

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus having a vacuum source for removing ~~unwanted~~ moisture from the surfaces of a structure, the apparatus comprising:

at least one interplane vacuum chamber having a hose port and a sealing cushion along the periphery of the interplane vacuum chamber defining spaces engageable with the surfaces; and

a hose connected with the hose port and in fluid communication with the interplane vacuum chamber and the vacuum source;

wherein, the at least one interplane vacuum chamber self seals against the surfaces along the periphery of the sealing cushion upon application of sufficient suction

to cause water migration in the direction from the surfaces, through the spaces, through the hose, and towards the vacuum source

~~a housing having a first sealing surface;~~

~~—— a second sealing surface spaced from and coplanar with first sealing surface;~~

~~—— a third sealing surface; and~~

~~—— a fourth sealing surface spaced from and coplanar with the third sealing surface.~~

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the ~~first and third sealing surfaces are adjoined and wherein the second and fourth sealing surfaces are adjoined~~ at least one interplane vacuum chamber engages against a first surface occupying a separate plane relative to a second surface.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 38 ~~39~~, wherein the first and ~~third second~~ sealing surfaces are orthogonally oriented ~~and wherein the second and fourth sealing surfaces are orthogonally oriented.~~

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 38 ~~40~~, wherein the first surface is a floor and the second surface is a wall adjoining the floor ~~housing further includes a vacuum port.~~

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41 ~~40~~, further including a vacuum source attachable to the vacuum port wherein the first surface is a first wall and the second surface is a second wall adjoining the first wall.

